



Photo by Amy Randall

2019 Community Impact Report





Dear Poetry Community:

For the first time on this poetry path, I am delivering a Community Impact Report so the community-at-large understands the scope of my Road Warrior Journeys. I work at the Peace Center in Greenville, SC, The State Theatre in New Brunswick, NJ and also as a teaching artist through the Kennedy Center as a Teaching Artist working with their Partnerships across the country for the last nineteen years. In this role, I teach teachers how to implement poetry in the classroom.

For the last five years I have been honored to Mentor Poet for the National Students Program in Washington DC. My poetic service is not limited to these organizations, but is a large part of the work that I provide. I work in many more places as I am called by my heart – locally, regionally nationally and internationally. This year I was pleased to write commissioned poems – two that I will highlight here are **"How to Remember Constellations"** for The Lost Souls Memorial Project in New Jersey. It is about a horrible time history when a heinous judge sold free people of color into the deeper south for a higher price. The poem is to help raise funds for the memorial. I also wrote a poem for the Rotary Club Conflict and Resolution Conference, **"Peace is a Verb an Action Verb."** You can find the video on my website. <http://www.glenisredmond.com/peace-is-a-verb-an-action-word/>

This year I have been buffered and buoyed by my engagements. I was pleased by the deepening relationships with institutions and mostly connecting with people. I participated in several profound creative collaborations with my colleagues from University of Delaware. We produced The Three Harriets and David Drake which played Adelaide, Australia states and at the Peace Center. I have been to, Naples, Sarasota, West Palm, Maui, Molokai in Hawaii to Wichita, Kansas and many points in between, but you know what Dorothy says, "There's no place like home." One of my most fulfilling moments was in Charleston, South Carolina reading poetry on the McCleod Plantation between the plantation and enslaved cabins that were still inhabited by African-American occupants up until 1976.

During my reading my mama sitting in the audience reported that the whole time a butterfly circled. I take that as an auspicious sign. I kept reaching my right hand back to the field behind me while reading. Mama, "Said if only we could have seen the people in the field working." This is the way of my mama naming what I am feeling. I could feel the ancestors' palpable reach. I choose to call that moment: **The Field of Us.**

All, I just wanted to share some of my work highlights from this year as a teaching artist and poet. Many of you have made it possible for me to be on this journey and do this work. I am grateful to have received just as much as I have been given for that I am grateful.

Yours-n-Verse,

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Locations

Glenis Redmond has two poetry posts as the Poet-in-Residence at The Peace Center for the Performing Arts in Greenville, SC, and at the State Theatre in New Brunswick, NJ.

Greenville, South Carolina / Peace Center – She is a founder of Peace Voices, a poetry program dedicated to poetic outreach and engagement in the community through the Community Impact Department of The Peace Center for the Performing Arts in Greenville, South Carolina. Glenis believes that poetry is a healer, and she can be found in the trenches across the world applying pressure of poetry to those in need, one poem at a time.

New Brunswick, New Jersey / State Theatre – New Jersey's signature residency program features poet Glenis Redmond. The annual residency has taken her to over 130 sites throughout New Jersey—including schools, senior centers, libraries, residential treatment facilities, correctional institutions, corporate offices – and has touched the lives of more than 16,000 people.

Glenis shares her deeply personal poetry during informances and performances for groups both large and small. She also leads writing workshops that showcase her unique gift for teaching and inspiring others to write.

Washington DC / Kennedy Center – As a Kennedy Center Teaching Artist, Glenis conducts professional development poetry workshops in schools and with teachers at the Kennedy Center and across the country for Kennedy Center partners. She is also listed in their National Touring Directory.

She has served as the Mentor Poet for the National Student Poet's Program to prepare students to read at the Library of Congress, the Department of Education, and for First Lady Michelle Obama at The White House. The students now read at the Library of Congress, where she still serves as the Mentor Poet.

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Poetic Services

Mentor

Poetic Ambassadors – Glenis mentors 10-15 teens on how to become better poets on the stage and page and how to become literary citizens in the community.

Conducts workshops, teaches poetry workshops to students of all ages in schools, community and at the Peace Center

Teacher Workshops – instruct teachers, administrators and art specialist on the importance of using poetry in the classroom.

Teaching Artist Consultant – coach and mentor teaching artists regionally and nationally

National Students Program Mentor – Mentor National Student poets to prepare them in to read at the Library of Congress, The Dodge Poetry Festival and Native American Smithsonian.



Commissioned Poems

"How to Remember Constellations," Lost Souls Project. Memorializing enslaved people in Central New Jersey who were free people sold into deeper South.

"Peace is a Verb and Action Word" Written for Rotary Club's Peace and Conflict Resolution Conference

Book Discussions

The Peace Center donates books.

"Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacquelyn Wilson

"The Day the World Came To Town by Jim DeFebe

Keynotes

Glenis is in high demand as a keynote speaker to perform and talk about the power of poetry. This year she spoke at the Women's Recovery Conference, MAHEC Mountain Area Health Education Center (reclaiming the land), The Greenville Library, NAACP-ACT-SO, The Asheville School, The Rotary Club and several Summer Teacher Institutes for the Kennedy Center.

Community Readings

Hosts a reading at the State Theatre comprised of participants from workshops conducted in Central Jersey

Presides over poetry readings and slams for teens and adults participating in workshops or slams at the Peace Center



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Teaching Artist

Teach. Outreach.

The community is invited to command both page and stage.



Follow
Your Poetic Heart

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2019 Impact

Poet-in-Residence at Peace Center
6,218 Direct
15,000 Indirect

2019 Impact

State Theatre
4,112 Direct
8,000 Indirect





Statistics 2019

11 Years State Theatre
People Reached **25,229**
125 Host Sites
8 Counties in New Jersey

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"Glenis applies the pressure of poetry
one poem at a time."

7 Years Peace Center
People Reached **53,646**

27 Years of Poetic/
Teaching Artist Service
Direct Impact: **1.5 Million**
Indirect Impact: **Exponential**



Creative Collaborations

Peace Center

Three Harriets – The Three Harriets tells the inspiring stories of these women combining history, poetry, and dance—Harriet Tubman, the most famous conductor of the underground railroad; Harriet Jacobs, who escaped from slavery and became an abolitionist, and the author of *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*; and Harriet E. Wilson, who was held as an indentured servant in the North and went on to become an important novelist, businesswoman, and religious speaker.

Dancing David Drake, Vaughn Newman of Vaughn Newman Dance – A blending of history, dance, and poetry, David Drake tells the story of how one man's life and art created a ripple of inspiration for artists who encountered his genius. Living his life under slavery in South Carolina, Dave became an accomplished potter, engraving poetic couplets onto his masterpieces.

Featured locally at the Greenville County Museum of Art and in the nation's most important museums, his work inspired painter Jonathan Green, poet Glenis Redmond, and countless others.

These stirring productions are collaborations with literary historian Dr. P. Gabrielle Foreman, choreographer and artistic director Dr. Lynnette Overby, Composer Ralph Russel and U of D students of Alumni and Peace Center Poet-in-Residence, Glenis Redmond, *Dancing David Drake*, and Vaughn Newman of Vaughn Newman Dance.

Southern Voices – Blending blues and gospel songs with poetry, Peace Center Poet-in-Residence Glenis Redmond and award-winning singer-historian Scott Ainslie take us on a tour of the South. *Southern Voices* weaves together our rich histories and diverse personal stories to showcase the influences and character of the Southeast United States.

Community Affiliations

Affiliated with Peace Center **22** years
Kennedy Center Teaching Artist **19** years
Lloyd Artist, **16** years
South Carolina Arts Commission **27** years

North Carolina Arts Council **20** Years
Outreach to countless schools, colleges,
non-profits prisons and shelters

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Significant Community Affiliations

White House, Obama Administration
Library of Congress
The Peace Center
The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts
State Theatre
US State Department, U.S. Embassy in Oman
The Smith Center
The Van Wezel
The Rotary Peace and Conflict Resolution Conference
Lost Souls Project
Dance and the Child International, Adelaide, Australia
International Teaching Artist Conference, NYC
Any Given Child, Sarasota
Carl Sandburg Home
Ojai Storytelling Festival
Maui Arts & Cultural Center
Kimmel Harding Nelson Residency
America for the Arts
Roger C. Peace
Molokai High School
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt
Mountain Area Health Center
National Students Poets Program, Mentor
Furman University, Emerging Public Leaders

Generations: Telling Our Stories

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